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C. D. THOMPSON, Business Manager.

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☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address THE COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

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# The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VIII.—NO. 52. WEEKLY EDITION. NOVEMBER 4, 1871.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—News-PAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directly or otherwise, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take News-papers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

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## THE SUICIDE MANIA.

**A Frenchman, Emigrant from Baltimore, Shoots Himself Through the Head—A Train of Cars Backs Over Him Before He is Discoverd—Coroner's Inquest.**

Between five and six o'clock Monday morning a very singular suicide occurred in the yards of the Pan Handle Railroad, adjoining the emigrant depot on Grant street, a Frenchman named Eugene La Motte, an emigrant from Baltimore, having shot himself through the head, producing death almost instantly. It seems that La Motte arrived from Baltimore Sunday night, having left there Saturday night; that he had a brother living in St. Louis; that he stopped at Lundy's Hotel on Liberty street; that he came yesterday morning about five o'clock and repaired to the emigrant depot on Grant street. Moreover, it is apparent that La Motte had decked upon committing the offense a train was backed into the depot and the officers were engaged checking off freight. The report of a pistol from the region of the back end of the train was heard and a remark made that some of the emigrants had probably grown tired of life and shot himself. Nothing more was thought of the matter until the train had backed out of the yard when the unfortunate man was discovered lying upon the track with one of his legs cut off at the knee and the other one somewhat crushed. He was still alive, but survived only a few moments, and expired before a physician reached the ground. Coroner Wrest was notified, an inquest held, and the following testimony elicited:

THE TESTIMONY.

Terrence O'Brien sworn.—I live at Falling Waters, West Virginia. On Saturday evening last I came to Baltimore and got an emigrant ticket for St. Louis. I met the deceased at Baltimore. There was a gentleman with him, and he asked me how far I was going. I told him I was going to St. Louis; he asked me to show him how to go, and to show him what train to go on from Columbus, as that was as far the distance he was going with me; we arrived about 9 P. M. Sunday evening in Pittsburgh; I then asked a police officer where there was a respectable stopping for the night; he directed us to Lundy's Hotel on Liberty street; we went to bed about eleven o'clock P. M.; he appeared slept in the same room with me and my brother; he got up in the morning (yesterday) shortly after five o'clock; he could not speak much English; he was a Frenchman; I did not know whether he had a revolver or not; he did not tell me his name, but it is on the ticket; he was a sergeant, "Eugene La Motte."

Matthew O'Brien, brother of the preceding witness, was then sworn, and his testimony fully corroborated that of Terence, given above.

John Smith, a watchman, employed by the Express Company as check-off messenger. Between half-past five and six o'clock this morning, while busy checking off the freight, he heard the report of a pistol, and just then some one remarked that perhaps some of the emigrants had fired a pistol and had shot himself. The Erie and Pittsburgh train west was pulled up at the platform when the man shot himself. He must have been close behind the train. After the train had backed out we found him. He was inside of the track, with his legs over the right rail. He was not quite dead at that time. He opened his mouth several times after I first saw him. From the time I heard the report of the pistol until the train backed it was about five minutes. I saw the revolver laying pretty close beside him. Messenger Lane picked up the revolver and was looking at it and trying to get it open, but I think he did not succeed. I think he cocked the revolver.

The deceased was a man of perhaps forty years of age, respectable in appearance and well dressed. On his person was found a leather cigar case containing three twenty dollar bills and $2 in change; also a receipt for a letter registered at Baltimore, October 28, by Eugene La Motte, the deceased, to T. La Motte, Houston, Texas. The receipt is number 474; also a memorandum book, bearing the following: Mr. Henry De La Reintrie, Baltimore and Texas Steam Transportation Company, No. 5 Postoffice avenue, near Exchange place. On the margin, written in pencil mark, was the following: Please indicate to the bearer the way to the office of Mr. De La Reintrie. J. R. C., and on the back of the note, "74, W. Beck, 16 Center Space Reinhardt, Baltimore."

The Coroner took charge of the effects of the deceased, and in order if possible to ascertain the relatives or friends, telegraphed Mr. La Motte, at Houston, Texas, as follows: "Baltimore, but no reply had been received at last accounts. The Coroner's jury did not deem a physician necessary, as there was no doubt that the man came to his death as produced death. The body was removed to the undertaking establishment of Burkhamer, on Grant street, where it will remain until to-day in order to give those telegraphed to ample time to reply. Nothing is known of the family of the deceased, which led to the deed, but it is probable that some light may be thrown upon this to-day.

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[From the Tuscarawas Advocate, 26th.]

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[From the Grafton, W. Va., Sentinel.]

We have been informed of one of the most brutal murders committed in Upshur county, on Monday, the 9th ult., that has ever blackened the pages of criminal history. Our informant is a resident of the neighborhood in which the murder was committed, and is a thoroughly reliable man, and relates the facts to us, are as follows: A man by the name of Greggory was in the neighborhood and came to Buckhannon, where he bought a load of goods for his horse, it was necessary, when the mill was to be moved to the next farm, for a man who owned a mill to furnish the other horse. Greggory had no grinding cane for a man, and the next day was to move it to a Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis's horse being absent, he went to his neighbor, a man by the name of Miller, with whom he always had been on good terms, who told him he might have his horse. Mr. Lewis, the next morning the day of the fatal tragedy, called for the animals. Miller was away from home at the time, and his wife gave her consent to let the horse go. When Miller came home and found that the horse was gone he flew into a terrible rage, and started off to Mr. Lewis's immediately, and on his arrival, he found Lewis immediately, and on his arrival, he found Lewis in the act of hitching up the animal, commenced to abuse the owner of the mill, using the most horrible and the most obscene language, and gathered up a large stone and swore he would kill him. Mr. Greggory then told Mr. Lewis when Miller retreated, and turned upon Mr. Lewis with his abusive language and swore that he would kill him. Mrs. Lewis, as well as Mr. Lewis was standing by, and seeing the danger of her husband, stepped forward, and asked to explain matters, but Miller swore he would just as soon kill her as any one, and with the declaration struck her a powerful blow in the forehead, which caused her to open and killing her instantly. The act was so sudden and forcible that before Mr. Lewis and Greggory could do anything, the brutal murderer had fled and made his escape. He is still at large, but is thought to be in the neighborhood, as he has since been seen by some parties. A reward of over one hundred dollars has been offered for his arrest. Miller is described as being a large, black-haired man, with dark jean clothes and a white hat.

This terrible affair occurred on Sand run, about seven miles from Buckhannon.

The stone with which he struck the woman was afterward weighed and was found to weigh three and a quarter pounds.

### A Sermon to Sermonizers.

In the Easy Chair of *Harper* for November, George William Curtis thus discourses on Special Providences and baked blue-fish, apropos of certain recent terrible disasters. "If the explosion of the boiler of the Westfield on the Sound, and the consequent destruction of life, is a sign in the Divine displeasure and a judgment upon sin, what is the explosion of the worn boiler of the Starbuck upon a week-day, and the consequent destruction of life? It was on Saturday evening that Dr. Gannett, a Unitarian, and Dr. Mason, a Baptist, two clergymen universally respected for the purity of their lives and the benignity of their teachings, were instantly killed upon the Hudson River Railroad. Was it a judgment for traveling upon Saturday night? But why was it not equally a judgment for traveling at all? Why was it not a judgment upon Dr. Gannett for being a Unitarian, or upon Dr. Mason for being a Baptist? Why not a judgment upon the community for tolerating a railroad?

Last Tuesday, said a newspaper in the east, a clergyman of Ipswich was standing upon the frame of Deacon Jones's house, which was just raised, and unfortunately fainting, fell to the earth. It is impressive warning against standing upon the frames of unfinished houses on Tuesdays. Yesterday morning a little girl going to school slipped upon a piece of orange peel and broke her thigh. Let a Providential admonition to little girls not to go to school in the morning! Last week Obadiah Screw's gray mare ran against a sculler off the Battery, and cut herself so severely that she died. The day before Obadiah Screw ate baked bluefish for dinner. Let those who eat baked blue-fish reflect in time upon this warning. Take care, fervent friend, that in explaining the Celestial counsels as if you had been admitted to them, you do not bring the Celestial Power itself into doubt and contempt.

☞ The Order of United American Mechanics in this State, we learn, taken ground against the system of trades unions as at present conducted, and inconsistent with the true principles of Republican government. It declares further that "it will take active measures for the restoration of the *good old system* of apprenticeship, in order that the children of members of this Order may be enabled to learn trades thoroughly, so as to compete successfully with foreign mechanism. This is a step in the right direction, at least so far as the restoration of the apprenticeship system is concerned, and we should be glad to see it generally followed.

## MORMONISM.

### Sentence of the Bigamist Hawkins.

SALT LAKE, October 28.—Chief Justice McKean this morning passed sentence upon Thos. Hawkins, the polygamist, as follows: Thomas Hawkins, I am sorry for you; very sorry. You may not think so now, but I shall try to make you think so by the mercy which I shall show you. You came from England to this country with the wife of your youth. For many years you were a kind husband and affectionate father. At length, however, the evil spirit of polygamy tempted and possessed you. Then happiness departed from your household and now by the complaint of your faithful wife and the verdict of a law-abiding jury, you stand at this bar a convicted criminal. The laws give me large discretion in passing sentence upon you. I might both fine and imprison you, or I might fine you only or imprison. I might imprison you twenty years and fine you one thousand dollars. I cannot imprison you less than three years, nor fine you less than three hundred dollars. It is right that you should be fined, among other reasons to help defray the expenses of enforcing the laws, but my experience has been such that were I to fine you only, I am satisfied the fine would be paid out of other funds than yours, and thus you go free, absolutely free from all punishment, and those upon whom you minister the people would make you and thousands of others believe that God had sent the money to pay the fine; that God had prevailed the Court from sending you to prison: that by a miracle you had been rescued from the authorities of the United States. I shall look to it that my judgment give no aid and comfort to such men. I must look to it that my judgment be not so severe as to seem vindictive, and not so light as to seem to trifle with justice. This community ought to begin to learn that God does not interpose to rescue criminals from the consequences of their crimes; but on the contrary, He so orders the affairs of His universe that sooner or later crime stands face to face with justice, and just as the Master, I will say here and now, that whatever your good behavior and the public good shall justify me in doing so, I will gladly recommend that you be pardoned. The judgment of the Court is that you be fined $500, and that you be imprisoned at hard labor for the term of three years. Contrary to all expectations there was little or no excitement in the court room. The attendance was large, but generally all maintained proper decorum. The United States Marshal and deputies were fully prepared for any emergency. Notice of appeal to the Supreme Court was given by the prisoner's counsel.

Warrants are out for the arrest of Bishop Dunford, on his own oath, on a charge of murder, on having ordered the killing of Richard Yates. The indictment on these murder counts are understood to be based on the testimony of Bill Hickman, who was one termed by the Gentile in Utah the terror of the Mormon authorities. Yates visited the Mormon camp during the rebellion of 1854, ostensibly to sell powder. The Mormons suspected him as a spy, and some weeks after arrested him and placed him in the custody of Buckman at Salt Lake. Bill Wells then commanded the Mormon troops, and Hosea Stout was Judge Advocate, and on the way to Salt Lake killed Yates, as he says, by order of Brigham Young and Joseph A., and at the instigation of Wells and Stout. Hickman is also connined now at Camp Douglas. He went with the Utes to Black canon, and after pointing out the spot where he had buried Yates, assisted in disinterring the remains.

Daniel H. Wells, Mayor of the city, Hosea A. Stout, formerly Attorney General of the Territory, and W. Belden Kimball, in Hearty canon, were arrested an hour since by United States Marshal Patrick, upon an indictment found by the grand jury charging them with murder. Tom Finch made application to admit them on bail, which will be heard on Monday. The prisoners were placed in a carriage and taken to Camp Douglas.

Some excitement prevailed at the Marshal's office while the accused were there waiting for a conveyance to the camp, some policemen having threatened not go to prison if they did not wish to go, and one or two citizens declaring that the officers to take them if they dared; they would fight them with a vengeance. The officers, however, were firm, and no disturbance occurred. The charge against Wells consists in the killing of Richard Yates and a man named Buck several years ago.

A warrant was out for the arrest of Orsen Hyde, one of the twelve apostles, on the same charge, but he has been in hiding for many years, and no person in Utah, who knows of his whereabouts, will reply had been received at last accounts. The Coroner's jury did not deem a physician necessary, as there was no doubt that the man came to his death as produced death. The body was removed to the undertaking establishment of Burkhamer, on Grant street, where it will remain until to-day in order to give those telegraphed to ample time to reply. Nothing is known of the family of the deceased, which led to the deed, but it is probable that some light may be thrown upon this to-day.

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## GEORGE O. EVANS.

### The Decision of Judge Pearson.

**Special Dispatch to the Commercial.**

PHILADELPHIA, October 30, 1871.

The case of George O. Evans, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, came up again this morning before Judge Pearson, at Harrisburg, who heard the testimony for the Commonwealth on Friday, and reserved his decision till to-day. The Judge dismissed Mr. Evans from the criminal commitment absolutely, and so amended the capias as to reduce the amount of security from $400,000 to common bail for appearance only in the sum of $100,000. In the delivery of his decision Judge Pearson said substantially: There were two charges against Mr. Evans, one criminal, and the other a civil one for the embezzlement of $201,000, on which he was held in default of $25,000 bail; the other on a *capias* with $400,000 security. He had asked to be discharged from the commitment in the criminal case, for the reason that he had not been guilty of any criminal offense, and that the security in the civil suit should be reduced to common bail for personal appearance. The State officers should have acted against him, allowing him such compensation as they deemed just, when he could have appealed and the court would have decided as to what he was entitled. We do not propose to reflect upon the State officers, acting under the advice of the Attorney General, for whom we have great respect. Can the defendant be convicted of a crime on the facts alleged before us? If not are we bound to discharge him. The Judge here quoted the seventy-third section of revised statutes, supposed to cover the case. The first question presented is: Is the defendant a State officer? for it cannot be pretended that he is any other. If he is, it is not necessary that he shall have fraudulently embezzled the money; it is sufficient that he prove a defaulter and refuse to pay over the money to those authorized to receive it. Did Mr. Evans receive the money in this case as a State officer, or as a special agent? Was it obtained as the attorney in fact of Governor Geary, under the act of Congress? In common parlance, generally an agent or an attorney is not a State officer; in legal parlance he most certainly is not a State officer. A State or county officer is one who holds the state or county exercises its governmental functions, and Judge Grier declares that special commissioners appointed by the Legislature to perform certain duties in the counties are not State officers. The same rule would apply here. In this country the term trust, whether to perform public or private duties, has never been considered a State office or the holder thereof a State officer. When Mr. Evans's commission is read carefully, it appears that he is created a special agent, to receive from a State officer. Even if it had, it would not bring his position within the constitution and for years thereafter, and is barred by the statute of limitations, and he could not now be lawfully convicted of that offense. Afterwards new claims were discovered by Mr. Evans, who was appointed by letter of attorney in his own name, and in some weeks after arrested him and placed him in the custody of Buckman at Salt Lake. Bill Wells then commanded the Mormon troops, and Hosea Stout was Judge Advocate, and on the way to Salt Lake killed Yates, as he says, by order of Brigham Young and Joseph A., and at the instigation of Wells and Stout. Hickman is also confined now at Camp Douglas. He went with the Utes to Black canon, and after pointing out the spot where he had buried Yates, assisted in disinterring the remains.

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The stone with which he struck the woman was afterward weighed and was found to weigh three and a quarter pounds.

### A Robber Meets His Death at the Hands of a Farmer Near Delphos, O.

**Special Dispatch to the Commercial.**

DELPHOS, O., October 30, 1871.

Last night about eight o'clock a man, name unknown, and about thirty-five years of age, was killed by Andrew Stever, a farmer of wealth, six miles from this place. The murdered man broke into the house of Mr. Stever, and asked him for some matches. When Steuer handed them to him, the man had a revolver in his hand, and asked Steuer if he had any money, whereupon Steuer knocked it from his hand and knocked the man down upon the floor. Mr. Stever had a small pocket knife, with which he commenced stabbing the man several times. The man got up and staggered to the door, when Mr. Stever went to one of his neighbors for assistance, and upon his return the man was dead. The deceased had upon his person two revolvers, a watches and about forty dollars in money. The coroner held an inquest, and the jury returned the verdict that the deceased came to his death by the hand of Andrew Stever, in self-defense. Stever is not under arrest.

### Death of Senator Connell, of Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, October 26.—State Senator elect George Connell died this morning, after an illness of some weeks.

### A "Fire-Proof" that Stood the Test.

It is related that when the owner of a certain house in Chicago saw that the flames were going to sweep over the North Side, he secured the aid of some men passing along, dug a hole in his garden, and buried the greater part of his household valuables, clothing, crockery and lighter articles therein. They had scarcely finished before the fire came, and full of dirt when their own roof took fire, and they made good their escape. Having secured a place to live in for a short time, the family had that morning returned to the ruins of their homestead and dug up their treasures unharmed by the flames. The head of the family had lost everything except what had been saved in this pit, and among the articles were some diamonds and valuable jewelry, which have been disposed of with such success that the fortunate individual has not required aid even for restarting business. Perhaps the gentleman who are trying to solve this fire-proof problem may receive a hint from the above incident. A solution is needed to insure the safety of public records, if for no other reasons.

## GEORGE O. EVANS.

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**Special Dispatch to the Commercial.**

PHILADELPHIA, October 30, 1871.

The case of George O. Evans, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, came up again this morning before Judge Pearson, at Harrisburg, who heard the testimony for the Commonwealth on Friday, and reserved his decision till to-day. The Judge dismissed Mr. Evans from the criminal commitment absolutely, and so amended the capias as to reduce the amount of security from $400,000 to common bail for appearance only in the sum of $100,000. In the delivery of his decision Judge Pearson said substantially: There were two charges against Mr. Evans, one criminal, and the other a civil one for the embezzlement of $201,000, on which he was held in default of $25,000 bail; the other on a *capias* with $400,000 security. He had asked to be discharged from the commitment in the criminal case, for the reason that he had not been guilty of any criminal offense, and that the security in the civil suit should be reduced to common bail for personal appearance. The State officers should have acted against him, allowing him such compensation as they deemed just, when he could have appealed and the court would have decided as to what he was entitled. We do not propose to reflect upon the State officers, acting under the advice of the Attorney General, for whom we have great respect. Can the defendant be convicted of a crime on the facts alleged before us? If not are we bound to discharge him. The Judge here quoted the seventy-third section of revised statutes, supposed to cover the case. The first question presented is: Is the defendant a State officer? for it cannot be pretended that he is any other. If he is, it is not necessary that he shall have fraudulently embezzled the money; it is sufficient that he prove a defaulter and refuse to pay over the money to those authorized to receive it. Did Mr. Evans receive the money in this case as a State officer, or as a special agent? Was it obtained as the attorney in fact of Governor Geary, under the act of Congress?

In common parlance, generally an agent or an attorney is not a State officer; in legal parlance he most certainly is not a State officer. A State or county officer is one who holds the state or county exercises its governmental functions, and Judge Grier declares that special commissioners appointed by the Legislature to perform certain duties in the counties are not State officers. The same rule would apply here. In this country the term trust, whether to perform public or private duties, has never been considered a State office or the holder thereof a State officer. When Mr. Evans's commission is read carefully, it appears that he is created a special agent, to receive from a State officer. Even if it had, it would not bring his position within the constitution and for years thereafter, and is barred by the statute of limitations, and he could not now be lawfully convicted of that offense. Afterwards new claims were discovered by Mr. Evans, who was appointed by letter of attorney in his own name, and in some weeks after arrested him and placed him in the custody of Buckman at Salt Lake. Bill Wells then commanded the Mormon troops, and Hosea Stout was Judge Advocate, and on the way to Salt Lake killed Yates, as he says, by order of Brigham Young and Joseph A., and at the instigation of Wells and Stout. Hickman is also confined now at Camp Douglas. He went with the Utes to Black canon, and after pointing out the spot where he had buried Yates, assisted in disinterring the remains.

Daniel H. Wells, Mayor of the city, Hosea A. Stout, formerly Attorney General of the Territory, and W. Belden Kimball, in Hearty canon, were arrested an hour since by United States Marshal Patrick, upon an indictment found by the grand jury charging them with murder. Tom Finch made application to admit them on bail, which will be heard on Monday. The prisoners were placed in a carriage and taken to Camp Douglas.

Some excitement prevailed at the Marshal's office while the accused were there waiting for a conveyance to the camp, some policemen having threatened not go to prison if they did not wish to go, and one or two citizens declaring that the officers to take them if they dared; they would fight them with a vengeance. The officers, however, were firm, and no disturbance occurred. The charge against Wells consists in the killing of Richard Yates and a man named Buck several years ago.

A warrant was out for the arrest of Orsen Hyde, one of the twelve apostles, on the same charge, but he has been in hiding for many years, and no person in Utah, who knows of his whereabouts, will reply had been received at last accounts. The Coroner's jury did not deem a physician necessary, as there was no doubt that the man came to his death as produced death. The body was removed to the undertaking establishment of Burkhamer, on Grant street, where it will remain until to-day in order to give those telegraphed to ample time to reply. Nothing is known of the family of the deceased, which led to the deed, but it is probable that some light may be thrown upon this to-day.

Since the above was written the Coroner has received telegrams from Mr. Beck, of Baltimore. The first message received was to the effect that La Motte had committed suicide, asked if he was dead, and on Mr. Beck being assured of this fact, he telegraphed back that he had no friends or relatives, save a brother in Houston, Texas, in this country, and that brother would be advised for the Coroner to bury the body.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS.

### Address of Hon. Felix R. Brunot Before the Y. M. C. A.

**Regular Monthly Meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association—Reports of Committees—Directors Nominated—Miscellaneous Business.**

A regular monthly meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association was held Saturday evening, in the rooms of the Association, corner Penn and Sixth streets.

The meeting was opened at seven and a half o'clock with the usual introductory exercises, conducted by the President, H. K. Porter.

**Address of Hon. Felix R. Brunot.**

At the conclusion of the reading of the note, Mr. Brunot delivered a brief address on Indian Affairs, of which the following is an extract:

Mr. Brunot said that it would be impossible for him to do justice to such a subject in the time allotted him—only twenty minutes—and thus he would only speak on one or two points. The inference that to such an audience as was present, the duty of Christians towards the Indians was the most important point he could present.

At the present time, Indian affairs occupy a position which they have never before occupied, because the Government has thrown a certain portion of the responsibility connected with the administration of the Indian office upon the Christian people. Heretofore every person in the country except a Christian had something to do with the Indians, either in aiming to keep up a prejudice towards them in the public mind, or in robbing or injuring them. Now, the matter of managing the Indians has been offered to the Christian people. They have been allowed to nominate the persons who shall have charge of the Indians. In olden times, the method was to establish military posts near Indian tribes, and also to send out agents to take charge of the Indians. The first business of the agent usually was to select those about him who would share in his profits and the wrongs he purposed to commit. The result was that the society so selected alcted the Indian as a decoy bird, and when children to learn. How can they learn unless teachers are sent us." At another place a Chief, in making a speech in regard to agents who have been appointed at different times to take care of them, when they came and their *attaches*." The first thing they did was to take away our wives, and we were obliged to leave." This accounts for the fact that in these reservations the Indian population is very small.

As the Christian people have accepted the responsibility of taking charge of the Indians, it becomes their duty to Christianize and civilize them. Missionary stations have already been established in some reservations, but very few workers have as yet been sent. Teachers are very scarce, and school houses are few and far between. One reason why many children are kept from school is because they have no clothing. For forty miles from Green Bay, all the villages are burned, but very few houses have escaped all over. Some after living all night in the water, dropped dead upon reaching the shore. Many animals rushed into the water, and one little girl held on to a cow's horns all night, and was saved. The milk of the cows was all the nourishment they had for days. Fleshing had about seventeen hundred people. They had mostly gone to bed when the hurricane brought the fire from the woods, and in ten minutes the village was ablaze, and all ran to the river for safety. Many were burned, and others drowned. One corner of a great brick manufactory building remained standing, and fifty people fled to it for safety. Authorities have closed the mills here, till after we have rain, as a single spark might lay waste the whole city. Mr. Brunot arrived in Chicago in the evening. W. and Dr. B. have one hundred and fifty children in their care. Exploring parties are still bringing in the dead, and skillful surgeons can do, oh! how much good."

## PHENOMENA AND INCIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN FIRE.

[From the Green Bay Advocate.]

PHENOMENA OF THE FIRE.

There are some phases of the great calamity which fell upon this region that are worthy of scientific investigation. The testimony of the cooler headed survivors of the fires at Peshtigo, the Sugar Bush and Williamsonville is united as to one phenomena. They say that the fire did not come upon them gradually from the direction of the burning districts to the windward, but the first notice they had of it was a whirlwind of flame, in great clouds, from above the tops of the trees, which fell upon and enveloped everything. The atmosphere seemed one of fire, and the people dashed in the river, where many died and fell down dead. This is verified by the appearance of many of the corpses. They were found dead in the roads and open spaces, where they seemed to have started to run, and in the buildings, trees, or other inflammable material, and there to have died together. Fences around houses were found prostrate, and the fire had run in roads in length, and elsewhere not touched. Here wind in the place in the air—as at Peshtigo, all were dressed in the same way. The women sat on one side, and the men on the other. Then they commenced their exercises by reading a portion of Scripture, then sang a hymn in English, which was followed by a short address in the Indian language by one of the natives. This lasted about half an hour, during which time the sun had risen and looked as the least promising of the natives. He was converted by the preaching of the missionaries, and is now a local preacher. All of the Methodist conferen e at Oregon. This address was followed by a prayer in the native tongue, and the meeting adjourned. The Sunday-school met soon after. The speaker also visited a number of dwellings. In this reservation there are about two hundred and fifty houses, each having about four rooms. The houses were built by the Indians, the money being appropriated by the Government. The Indians own the houses they have their marriage certificates on the wall, which they are proud to show. Many of them have renounced polygamy. In one house the speaker noticed a picture which had been drawn at school by one of the children. It represented a man and a woman sitting at opposite ends of the table. Below the picture was written, "United we stand, divided we fall." Above it was written, "United we stand, divided we fall." This is not an isolated case.

The power has been granted by the Indian to large number of communicants among the Sioux, many of whom were the perpetrators of Indian massacres. Some of these have been educated in the Eastern States. Wherever you go, and any tribe you may visit, you will find a few who can speak English. You will say, what can we do unless we have teachers. How can we learn. When an Indian is once started, and has received a little help, he will help himself. The speaker then related another incident, of a colony of Indians who had been driven from their reservation years ago at a point on the Pacific coast thirty miles north of the California line. When the colony landed they found, owing to the mildness of the climate, the land was settled by Indians, about two hundred. These Indians treated the Californians very kindly, assisted them to land their cargo, build temporary tents, etc. The colony, however, had no sooner got

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, November 4, 1871.

# Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1871.

CITY TICKET

MAYOR,
BENJAMIN W. MORGAN.
TREASURER,
CHRISTOPHER L. MAGEE.
CONTROLLER,
ROBERT J. McGOWAN.

## VACCINATION.

Perpetual vigilance is the price of exemption from destructive epidemical diseases. The so-called guardians of the public health are directly and manifestly responsible for the ravages of the disgusting plague which is at present prevailing among us, as means fairly under their control, well known and easily applied, would have arrested its progress in the very beginning. Nothing was required but decided and energetic action on their part, on the alarm so cited by the earliest apparent tendency of the small-pox to become epidemical. At the same time, fairness demands the concession that our Pittsburgh health officers were placed under great disadvantages in fulfilling the duties imposed upon them by the emergency; disadvantages which involved discredit to them only as they failed in the presence of their embarrassment, with due earnestness to appeal to the people for its removal. In so great and wealthy a city as Pittsburgh the absence of a small-pox hospital is not merely a discredit—it is infamous. The deficiency is one of those several negative facts which, in spite of the splendid energy and substantial intelligence of our business men, give many strangers and transient visitors so unfavorable an impression of our civilization. However, the deficiency named did not excuse, or in any degree lessen the responsibility of those whose duty summoned them to take measures against the danger of contagion. The truth probably is that neither they nor the people in general realized the imminent peril, or had any adequate notion of the proper terrors of the disease when intensified and developed into an epidemic by neglect. The history of pestilence is not an attractive subject of study to most people, and so many years have passed since JENNER's discovery divested small-pox of a part of its horrors, that the traditions of the real character and desolating effects of the malady have already grown faint in the popular mind.

To persons who remember or who ascertain by inquiry what those traditions were only a short period ago; or who compare the statistics of the disease in the eighteenth century with its statistics in the nineteenth, skepticism concerning the efficacy of vaccination seems peculiarly perverse and unreasonable. In India where caste and other prejudices have interposed almost insuperable barriers to the introduction of vaccination, small-pox is still clothed in its ancient terrors. Though cholera is there always at home, and though the people are familiar with many fearful maladies appropriate to their climate, small-pox is more dreaded than any other. Naturally apathetic and careless of life, the Hindoo is at once aroused from his indifference and his habit of resignation on learning that Seetla has struck somebody in his village or neighborhood. It seems a divine visitation more terrible than immediate death, and all the resources of his superstition are appealed to for relief. Similar panic used to be the result of the same cause in Europe and America. The disease was dreaded not only as the cause of physical suffering and death, but as the cause of deformities, which might destroy the victim's whole plan of life, or strip life of its enjoyment. No worldly rank or social position placed any one beyond its reach. Indeed, the disease seemed partial to kings, queens and princes. In 1694, MARY, Queen of England; in 1711, the Emperor of Germany, JOSEPH the First; in 1712, the Dauphin and Dauphiness of France; in 1730, the Emperor of Russia, PETER the Second; in 1741, the Queen of Sweden, and in 1774, LOUIS XV. of France, all these royal persons died of small-pox. A trustworthy authority states that about the middle of the eighteenth century two millions of people perished by the disease in Russia alone. And there are records of its raging with destructive virulence at different times in Germany, France and England. The practice of inoculation introduced into England from Constantinople about 1720, did somewhat to mitigate the terrors of the disease. But these always remained sufficiently great, especially as aggravated by the absurd method of treating the patient then in vogue among physicians. In the insane fear of their catching cold, the sufferers were kept in hot rooms and allowed to drink no liquid not first warmed. An amusing account of the method and how it was sometimes disregarded with good results, may be found in the memoirs of DR. ADAM CLARKE, if we rightly remember.

But since history of DR. JENNER's discovery is one of the most remarkable narratives in all medical, or indeed, in any branch of learning heard a milk maid in Gloucestershire declare that she was not afraid of taking the small-pox because she had the cow-pox then on her hands contracted from her daily occupation of milking the diseased animals, JENNER entered on the investigation of the subject. After prolonged observation among the dairy people of Gloucestershire, while the small-pox was prevailing in the county, he was fully convinced that the cow-pox was a preventive of the malady. He then made an experiment to test the correctness of his conclusion. On the 14th of May, 1796, he inoculated a boy, JAMES PHIPPS, with the cow-pox, and then to his great joy found that inoculation with small-pox took no effect upon him. The discovery was made, and its reality has never been invalidated by facts. It was, however, wrongly taken for granted that vaccination in childhood was a sufficient protection for the whole life. Bad material was also often used, and at length the suspicion began to prevail, especially among ignorant people, that vaccination was of no use. The English Government therefore took measures to have the subject investigated in the most thorough and scientific manner, and the result was the famous blue book, published by the Board of Health in 1857. It is entitled "Papers on the History and Practice of Vaccination," and presents a mass of facts and opinions of eminent physicians perfectly irresistible in favor of JENNER's discovery.

From the first vaccination encountered hostility on various grounds, some moral, some religious, and some physiological, but all unreasonable. In the face of such foolish opposition it made way so rapidly, that in about twenty years after its discovery, it was practiced throughout the christian world. In Great Britain and Ireland, and perhaps in some other countries, it is compulsory. It may not be wise to adopt a like measure for the public safety in this country, and in a population of readers it should seem not to be necessary. Let every one use his influence and opportunity to diffuse a knowledge of the benefits of vaccination and, also a knowledge of the perils of neglect. And we hold it to be as much the duty of the guardians of the city to exert themselves in the use of this and other measures against the plague, as it would be to take measures for the arrest of a conflagration. Their responsibility is the same in each case.

## SOME USEFUL INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

The information which comes from New Mexico of the total change of front on the part of the papers and people of that Territory with respect to the Indian policy of the President, thoroughly sustains the views which we yesterday expressed concerning the Indian question, and goes to show, further, the utterly unreliable character of very much of the news received from the frontier respecting the depredations and outrages alleged to be committed by the Indians. In view of the astounding nature of these reports, we have taken the trouble to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the exact condition of affairs in the Indian country, our information being derived from sources at once the most intelligent, impartial and trustworthy.

Of the four hundred thousand Indians dwelling within the limits of the United States, fully one half have abandoned their nomadic habits and entered on reservations; all of which latter class have made greater or less progress in civilization. The assertion that the Indian is incapable of being taught the useful and productive arts and industries is not warranted by the facts. It is only a few years ago since the Kliquitat and Simcoe tribes were as dreaded as the Sioux, the Comanches and the Apaches are to-day; yet they are now, to the number of over a thousand, as peaceful and thrifty, in as comfortable circumstances, and possessed of as much wealth, the product of their own labors, as the average of western farmers. At Tulalup, Tummi, Skokomish, Surmimish, and other Indian points in Washington Territory, the Indians have adopted the white man's mode of life to the letter, even to the establishment of boarding schools; while in Oregon a large portion of the Indians are engaged in cultivating the reservations on which they reside. At Umatilla they own fifteen thousand horses, and are rich. At Warm Springs they continue to persevere in agricultural pursuits, notwithstanding the drawback of poor lands, and the discouragement of failure in the crops year after year. At Grand Ronde there is not an Indian living in a wigwam or wearing a blanket. All these tribes are engaged in farming; yet it is but a few years since they wandered about half naked, living on grasshoppers and sunflower seeds. Within the past year a large number of Californian Snake Indians, a powerful warlike tribe, have been brought on a reservation; cutting off their hair, discontinuing the blanket, building houses, and otherwise adopting the habits of the whites. Throughout Oregon and Washington Territory a man is fully as safe in the Indian country as among the whites. The difficulty is that the majority of our frontiersmen have no respect for the obligations of the compacts made by the Government with the Indians. Among them generally there is an utter disregard of Indian rights, and a constant effort made to dispossess the Indians of the lands which they are cultivating more successfully than their white neighbors. It is almost impossible to convict a white man of a crime against an Indian, no matter how flagitious the offense nor how positive the evidence. The United States judges are generally honest and impartial, but so far as the Indian is concerned territorial juries are almost invariably the reverse.

Moreover, the Sioux (divided between the Ogallalas, Brulla, Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Minneconjous), whom the telegraph has every month for the space of two years reported to be on the point of war, have remained in a state of profound peace during that entire period, and this although the Government has made no effort to place them on a reservation or teach them the arts of peace. The New York *Tribune* of July 20th, for instance, contained a positive statement that RED CLOUD, Chief of the Sioux, had started on the war path; yet three months afterwards it was discovered that he had quietly resided since June, over a hundred miles away from the point where reported at, and that he had not left the locality during all that time. So with SPOTTED TAIL, whom the telegraph about the same time reported to be on the war trail; this warrior was met by Mr. BRUNOT and party peacefully preparing for a buffalo hunt.

With regard to the Apaches, they were at war long before our acquisition of Arizona, and have since been subjected without intermission to the subjugating, which means the exterminating, process; and yet, after ten years of this species of relentless warfare, carried on at an average annual expense to the government of three millions of dollars, they are still as numerous, as much dreaded, and as successful in their resistance to the government as at first. The aggregate annual cost of Arizona to the people of the United States is four millions of dollars; yet according to the last census its total valuation was only one million. It has a population of some nine thousand, of whom less than three thousand are American citizens of native or foreign birth; the remainder being Spanish, Mexicans, or half breeds. There are not more than a score of American families in the territory, and while it is true that a number of respectable persons have been attracted to the country by the stories of its wonderful mineral resources, the majority of its inhabitants are composed of fugitives from justice and other adventurers and desperadoes of the frontier. This is the description of this section of society as given by ROSA BROWNE, who went out to the territory for the purpose of writing it up. As to the mines themselves, they have so far, with only one exception, proved failures, and it is safe to say that at least a thousand dollars has gone into them for every one that has come out. Not only is the territory difficult of access, and practically more remote than the center of Europe, but, with the exception of the northern part, where there is some good grazing land, but where, singularly enough, no Arizonian appears to want to live, it is almost absolutely worthless, either to the Government or to the industrious and orderly people of the country.

The detailed statement of Indian outrages recently reported from that Territory, has, according to the statement of an army officer of high rank and unquestionable veracity, been made to include almost every murder committed since its acquisition; nor is it any new thing, having been prepared some time ago by the Territorial Government and circulated in pamphlet form. The officer referred to states that in this list one outrage figures under different circumstances no less than twenty-eight times, each as a different affair, while others are repeated six, eight and ten times each; yet others being grossly exaggerated, a number manufactured out of whole cloth, and not a few laid at the doors of the Apaches that were in reality perpetrated by Spaniards, Mexicans and whites.

It is not denied that many cruel atrocities have been committed by these Indians, but it is asserted on what seems to be good evidence, by persons who are familiar with the whole subject, that they have been neither more numerous nor enormous in character than similar outrages on the part of the whites. The facts of the case are stated to be that the people of Arizona do not want peace, since with peace would come the removal of the army, the disbanding of seventeen military posts, kept up at an average annual expense of two hundred thousand dollars each, and the profit and advantage which come to themselves from this military occupancy.

Two years ago, at the request of the President, MR. COLLYER visited Arizona, and had an interview with the great Apache war chief, COCHISE, who expressed himself desirous of peace, and willing to take his people upon a reservation. Throughout the period of four months and a half during which this subject was pending, there was an entire cessation of hostilities on the part of the Indians. The bill, however, which appropriated thirty thousand dollars for carrying out the provisions of the treaty failed to pass Congress, and the Indian Superintendent was unable to make good his promises to the chief. Thereupon hostilities were renewed. The amount asked for has since been appropriated, however, and again through their chief the Apaches express their desire for peace. The policy of the President, as seconded by the Board of unpaid Commissioners, is evidently the only plan which can effectually checkmate the designs of the Western adventurers, the schemes of the Eastern rings, and give lasting peace and quiet to our western borders.

## AN HISTORIC PARALLEL.

The political situation, as regards the monarchy in England to-day, is, in some points, not unlike that which existed in 1788. At that time the worry of complications he could not comprehend had disordered the brain of GEORGE the Third. The loss of his colonial dominion in America, the threatening aspect of the revolutionary movement in Europe, and the public scandal about his hopeful eldest son, had combined to prostrate his nervous system; and the weak mind, which had never been really equal to the responsibilities of his kingly position, gave evident signs of wandering. France was aflame and England full of sedition. There was portentous talk of a universal republic, and the throne generally were shaken to their foundations. The king's usual health of body failed him, and the possibility and consequences of his death were freely discussed. A scape-grace Prince of Wales was universally unpopular, and his peaceful accession to the crown, in the event of his father's death, was looked upon as problematical. Many British statesmen thought that by placing him in this juncture at the nominal head of a regency, the day of trial might be tided over. A Regency did not involve the King's abdication; so that, if the young man should misbehave himself, he might easily be put aside again, during his father's lifetime, by an act of Parliament or an order in Council. If, on the other hand, he should unexpectedly turn out well in the character of provisional figure-head, the nation would quietly receive him as George the Fourth when the hour should come for George the Third to give up the royal ghost.

The schemes of these wise politicians came to nought through the obstinate refusal of the King to accept the hard impeachment of insanity, and countenance the rumors on that subject by an official act confirming them. He had that awful dread of admitting, even to his most secret self, the reality of the change that was insidiously stealing over him—that awful dread, which is so often a premonition of the very horror tottering reason feels to be inevitable, yet strives to avert or at any rate postpone. He do doubt felt that if he openly yielded to the suggestion of his insanity from others the certainty would fall upon his own soul with crushing force. As long as he could could struggle against exterior pressure hope might survive within. That struggle given up, hope was dead forever. Only a dreary blank for the poor eyes to gaze into for all the future. Visions of by-gone dignity and power; of coronations and cabinets; of all the glamor of imperial pageantry, broken into maddening fragments by a vagrant memory; restraint, seclusion and contemptuous pity; all the rest a wearisome oblivion! No wonder the poor king shrank from such a fate and made a strenuous fight against it. He had to yield in after years, but that first time he was successful.

Almost exactly as he was situated then his grand-daughter is situated now. The parallel is so exact as to render comparison of all its painful details needless. Very likely this crisis of VICTORIA's career will pass away as did that of 1788 from GEORGE the Third. Yet, if she lives, there is little question the after parallel will be completed.

THE proposed political combination between the English press and workingmen, to which we drew attention at the time when the proposition was first made public, appears to have created a profound impression throughout the country. At first the alleged alliance was denied, ridiculed, sneered at as incredible and impracticable, and in many cases even left unnoticed; but it is now generally admitted that there is something very serious in it, and that it involves questions of vast importance alike to the political and social welfare of the country. Nearly all the English journals are making it the principal topic. The *Times* deals with it in a light and frivolous way, but is evidently nonplussed and perplexed respecting the results which may come of it, and in doubt whether to deprecate or commend. Other journals, such as the *Telegraph*, *News*, *Post*, and their provincial contemporaries, make it the subject of elaborate comment, and generally concede it to be the most important "new departure" of the age. Not a few of these papers take precisely the position which the COMMERCIAL has held on the question—that the working classes are daily growing more and more indifferent to all merely party or political issues, and that the overshadowing question with them is one of work and wages—of an increase of their material comforts. The opinion is therefore pretty generally expressed that the proposed coalition will to a considerable extent succeed in its objects; partly because the workingmen see that they cannot all rise to be masters or landlords, and that if their condition and comforts under the wage system can be enhanced, it is comparatively immaterial whether the country be ruled by Whig or Tory; and partly because of the growing resentment they feel at the failure of Liberal members to keep the promises so profusely indulged in. It is to be regretted that BRADLAUGH and ODGER should still keep up their noisy agitation, but it is apparent that whatever power over the masses they may at one time have possessed is rapidly passing away. English workingmen, as we have before intimated, are not to be gulled and then the towboats, as well as the lives of all on board, were at the mercy of the enforced patents.

Does it not seem right and reasonable that the whole responsibility of engines, boilers, &c., should be put on experienced engineers than upon inanimate patented contrivances?

To have the coal cheaply transported, tow boats must descend the rivers in loads of about the size square inch, for the obvious reason with that amount of steam they can tow as large fleets and with greatly less amount they could not. For example, a steamer, with such power can tow 200,000 or 400,000 bushels, and can do so in a reasonable time, and if the same steamer had her power reduced one-fifth, as to tow one-fourth more, then she can only tow two-thirds of her former amount, and the towing of those two-thirds would be one-fifth greater than the three-thirds. As for the cheapness of the article, if it is local can be cheaply transported, it becomes a duty on the part of all citizens depending upon them for supplies to co-operate with our coal men, so that now and in the future, no restrictions will be put upon our river steamers, as their owners, by their skill, labor and energy during the past twenty-one years, have shown that they are worthy of implicit confidence, and that all restrictions are injurious to the consumers.

Coal is now transported from Pittsburgh to New Orleans, 2,200 miles, at six cents per bushel; to Louisville, 620 miles, at two cents; to Cincinnati at one and three-quarter cents, leaving seventy-six cents to the bushel, and at the above rate, the cost per bushel or ton is merely nominal.

Now, what would its cost be by railroad, so much greater that its use would have to be confined to the wealthy. Several years ago coal was shipped by rail from here to Cincinnati at nineteen cents per bushel. Add now its first cost, together with its incidental expenses, and you will find that three cents retail is reasonable.

Coal floated by tow boats can be put into the market at two-thirds less cost than by railroad, and as there is about 10,000,000 bushels annually consumed in two-thirds profit to the people on such an amount is such a wonderful consideration that all obstacles injurious to and calculated to destroy such a source of life and prosperity should be abolished.

On the reassembling of Congress, its first duty should be to repeal the law so far as our steamers are concerned, and to enact a law wherein no unjust restrictions would be placed upon the coal business. MC.

## Iron Steamboat Building on the Mississippi.

The question of building iron steamboats, to take the place of wooden ones now plying on our Western rivers, is beginning to receive serious consideration. A correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat*, writing from Chester on the Mississippi, says that an agent of an English company, from London, not long since visited that locality with a view to the establishment of a yard to build iron steamers. The location is on the Illinois shore, but forty miles away from the great iron fields of Missouri, and with the water lower in the Mississippi than has been known since 1838, there is now a depth of twenty-two feet in the channel a distance of at least one and a half miles the whole width of the river. It is claimed that "with the necessary facilities," iron steamers can be as cheaply built there as any where in the United States, and on the score of transportation, is said to be now making for the manufacture of iron, and practical men, who expect to invest millions of dollars as fast as the work can be prosecuted, say that iron can be made at Chester $10 per ton less than at any other point in the United States, and when this fact shall have been satisfactorily demonstrated, the destiny of the place will be settled beyond question.

THE result of the German polar expedition is said to settle a scientific dispute between two of the most distinguished Arctic authorities in the world—Professor Petermann and Captain Koldewey, both of Germany—by establishing the correctness of the former's hypothesis that the North Pole is approachable by a passage between Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla. The telegram announcing the vessels return to Trumso, in Norway, is very brief, but it suffices to show that the expedition reached a point 82 degrees of latitude in the region between 42 and 60 degrees of eastern longitude, and discovered an open sea, apparently leading eastward to Polynia, and affording a practicable access to the North Pole. The information thus obtained is of the expedition advanced through the glacial zone encompassing the Pole by the Gulf Stream, the direction of which, as discovered in 1869 by the steamer Albert, pointed exactly toward the spot up to which the vessels have now penetrated, viz., longitude 43 east and latitude 79 north. At a latitude of 75 or 76 degrees the Gulf Stream showed a warmth of 4 degrees Reaumur, a temperature unprecedented at any other point in the region, and on that account Dr. Petermann considers it the only route by which the pole can be reached. The detailed report of the expedition will be looked for with great interest by geographers and scientific men generally.

A FEW days ago the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, in an article on the prevalence of the epidemic in that city, quoted the opinion of a distinguished physician that the small-pox poison was only conveyed from one individual to another by contact or through contaminated clothing or bedding. This is not correct, would seem to make it every way important and desirable that notice of infected locations should be given. Something, moreover, ought to be instantly done in the matter of vaccination. It is true that Mr. Schwartzwelder has given an opinion that vaccination must be made compulsory, but other measures be taken to overcome the repugnance felt against it by the uneducated classes? The chief opposition of these people arises from an impression that disease communicable by vaccination. As suggested the race, he had entered into an agreement with them, and hedged it about with such conditions as he supposed they could not get over, but they had broken them all, and had gotten out of the matter in a manner peculiarly their own. The representative of Johnny Bull, and he thought he ought not to notice them further. "Bit," said he, "if they really destre to run, they can get a race in this country any time they will come over with a Bawbee for any amount of money they will name; but I do not propose to go to England. I have enough to do here."

It is reported that a new and strange disease has made its appearance in the neighborhood of Corydon, Indiana. The patient is taken with a chill, almost resembling that of fever, and followed by such excruciating soreness of the muscles that he can hardly be turned on a sheet. He experiences the most intense abhorrence for food, and his flesh soon turns spotted. After lingering in a painful, debilitated state for about two weeks, the patient begins to recover. The doctors say the symptoms are new and strange, and they are at a loss to understand the best mode of treatment.

There is a probability, says the *Times*, that Cincinnati will yet become famous for the splendor of her hotels. If one-half the schemes now being energetically pushed are successful, before another year rolls around that city will have passed from the extreme rear to the front, as determined by this necessary feature. In addition to the proposed immense structure already mentioned, it is stated that M. S. N. Pike will at once commence the work of modernizing the Burnet House.

Samples of the so-called tin ore received from Utah Territory, where the supposed tin discoveries have created such excitement, have been subjected at the Government Mint, and found to be impure, and also to a crucible assay, but in neither case could the least trace of tin be found. But one set of specimens has been received, and it is possible, though not probable, that the other "tin" specimens may not be as barren as the first article.

In Paris since the first of July self-murders have averaged five per day, most of the unfortunates ending their lives by a dive into the Seine. The number of women suicides has been small in proportion to the number of men, and those above fifty years were in the majority.

The first specimens of the new Japanese silver coinage were received in San Francisco by the last steamer from Japan. The standard of fineness and weight is that of the Mexican dollar, the only being the "Yen," which corresponds with the American dollar in size and weight, though in its general appearance, style and finish, it more resembles the new American coinage.

Books on the late war, a Paris correspondent writes, are appearing almost daily. Every General, Major, Lieutenant, Sergeant and Corporal has his story to tell, and they tell their stories with a variety of accounts most astonishing. Every man who has been in the war writes his diary. Wimpfen tells his tale, and MacMahon, the noble descendant of poor Irish parents, tells his, as widely different as black and white. General Moltke's history of the Prussian army is a fearful reflection and settlement of facts relating to the inefficiency and conduct of the French army during the war. It worried the French terribly.

Sulphate of quinia is largely manufactured in this country principally from cinchona bark—and no useful is the American article in its appearance and so reliable in quality as not only to rival the products of leading chemical houses of England, France and Germany, but to obtain almost invariably the preference in the home market in the sale of quinine at higher price. The present difference in price between sulphate of quinia here and in Europe is accounted by the heavy tax upon alcohol, there being no discrimination in this country as to England, in favor of the manufacturers, and the liberal wages paid for labor which enables the American to live with much more comfort and enjoy many more privileges than the British or Continental workmen. During a temporary scarcity of bark manufacturers run up prices to three dollars and upward, but manufacturers steadily filled their contracts at old figures ($2 30), and speedily checked the speculation by supplying the demand at reasonable rates.

An official statement shows that the total amount of brandy manufactured in the United States from fruit distillation during the last fiscal year was 2,199,-726 gallons. Of this amount California manufactured 1,956,600 gallons; New York, 126,962 gallons; Missouri, 61,096 gallons; New York, 126,962 gallons; North Carolina, 374,790 gallons; Virginia, 297,317 gallons.

There are eight pin factories in the United States, whose annual production is 2,000,000 packs, each pack containing 3,660 pins, a total of 7,320,000,000 pins. One manufacturer's agent in Boston sells every six months from 700 to 1,000 cases of pins per week, each case containing 672,000 pins. The factory which he represents turns out eight tons of pins per week. Half-pins are jobbed by the cask. There is but one factory in this country that produces them. They turn out fifty tons per month. The machine that cuts and bends the wire is making 360 hair-pins per minute, ready for japanning. Yankee pins are saleable in nearly every city of the world, and the production and consumption increase each year about ten per cent.

In New Haven, Conn., there is a needle factory where the whole process is done by a single machine without the labor of any person. It cuts the pieces of steel wire consecutively, punches the eye-holes, counter-sinks the eyes and grinds the points, and in fact, does everything until the needles drop out completely formed. Another machine picks them up and arranges them heads and points together, and a third piece of mechanism puts them into paper. One of these machines occupies no more space than an ordinary table, and each of them turns out from thirty to forty thousand needles a day. Most of the needles hitherto in use have been imported from England until a few years past.

The grounds of the Blooming Grove Park Association in Pike county, Pa., designated as the Fontainebleau of America, embrace eighty square miles and contain eight fish lakes, a pheasantry, and aviaries of every description. Six hundred acres, a space nearly as large as Central Park, New York, has been enclosed for breeding red deer.

A remarkable cluster of oranges has been brought from Dayton, Florida, by Dr. P. A. Gordon, of Mansfield, Ohio. It has twenty-eight oranges upon a single twig twelve inches in length. The Doctor extols the climate, soil and beauty of that locality, both as a summer and winter residence, and has come North for his wife and family to make their permanent home in Florida.

The Chicago *Tribune* explodes the story that that city was built of stone heavily charged with petroleum. It says the only building in the city of any size built of the supposed oil stone was the Second Presbyterian Church, and the walls of that building were no reduced to ashes, but stand conspicuously erect among the ruins of a hundred other buildings utterly destroyed.

An old lady, Mary Jackson, died recently at Dayton, Ohio, who, it is stated on reliable authority, had attained the remarkable age of one hundred and nineteen years. She was admitted to the County Infirmary October 23, 1837, and her age at that time was registered at eighty-five years. Until within the last three weeks she was able to walk about the place and was remarkably active for so aged a person. She had attained her "second sight" and was able to see her last days without glasses. Her health had been remarkably good, and there was no indication of disease to the last, her life gently ebbing out like a candle burned to the socket. She had been heard to say that her maiden name was Polly Mount, and that she was born in New York, but no information could be obtained from her as to whether she had any friends or relations living.

That portion of Philadelphia known as Germantown has been for some time in a continued fever of excitement, in consequence of the insane or devilish proclivity of some person for throwing vitriol upon the clothing of ladies while passing on the streets. The best efforts of the police and detectives to catch the scamp have failed. Within a few days a colored man has been arrested on complaint of his wife, for throwing the contents of a vitriol vial at her, and he is suspected as the party in case of war that France has been thrown into a ferment of preparation, and no change has been made in her entire army system by a mere magazine article of one of her citizens describing the disasters of a possible invasion. Is such a country likely to go to war with the United States?

OUR STRENGTH.

Need I stop to contrast the situation of America in view of the possibilities of war? Forty millions of people, without a colony or other dependency to be a source of weakness; without a vulnerable point; and backed by an army of a million and a half of soldiers lately disbanded and thoroughly trained; two-thirds of which may be brought into the field in ninety days; a navy of which I wish I could say more, but sufficient for our purposes, while our merchant marine is the largest and best in the world; and the enterprise of our people which would cause private armed vessels speedily forth everywhere to attack a country extended all over the globe; a country so situated that the mere suspension of our exports for a year would only deprive us of that we do not need, and are only the extravagances and not the necessaries of life, and thus save a great part of the cost of a war to the nation; containing everything within its ourselves as we have demonstrated, to carry on war for years with no possibility of being crippled in our resources by any attack from abroad; and, in fact, there would be no trouble in case of a war with England—a million and a half of our voting population would rush to the front in every State to avenge the wrongs suffered by themselves and their fathers from the tyranny of Great Britain over the green isle, forcibly driven from their native land. There is no war with England possible, unless wives and children make it impossible, and any fear of it absurdity.

## THE YELLOWSTONE EXPEDITION.

### The Wonders of the Far West.

A member of the scientific expedition under charge of Professor Hayden of the United States Geological Survey, in a remarkable interesting letter to the Philadelphia *Press*, written from the Yellowstone Lake, gives some descriptions of the physical wonders with which that region abounds.

In two days the party examined, mapped and recorded the temperature of over three hundred geysers and hot springs, embraced within an area of five miles. They vary from 110 deg. F. to the boiling point, which in that elevated region is only 198 deg. F. No idea can be conveyed of the exquisite beauty of these springs. The correspondent states that they are in all sizes, reaching even a diameter of 400 feet and a depth that is unfathomable. The edge presents us with a series of scallops arranged with the utmost regularity, while the sides, which sometimes slope inward gradually until out of view, and sometimes shoot perpendicularly and perpendicularly, are corrugated and often encrusted in high relief with sulphur, beautiful incrustations filling cavities, filled with water clear as crystal, the tint seen is a most beautiful blue, like the clear blue of a June sky, and in the centre, in the case of the largest. Every cavity seems lined with a portion of the heavenly vault, reproduced and toned over the prominent ridges on the sides of the spring, each one of which throws back the sunlight broken into its constituent colors.

Around each spring extends a vast deposit of siliceous material. In a pure white color, on which the sunlight coming from it can be traced by the vast deposit of iron which tinges their beds. A number of springs of sulphur water are found within the limits of the deposit of iron. With the exception of three springs there is no sulphur apparent in that region.

There are a number of mud springs, the mud being of all colors, white, red, pink and blue, and of all degrees of consistency. The steam escaping through the mud reduces it to an extreme degree of fineness, and, in pushing its way through some orifice, forms it back in forms resembling the leaves of a lily. It is also often projected to a considerable height.

The Geysers are described as being the most interesting feature of the whole region. They throw up columns of water to various heights, and are intermittent in their action. Each has its own regular period of action, some playing every ten minutes, some every hour, and others only once in twenty hours. When not playing some are perfectly quiet, while in others the water boils and surges all the time. In the morning, says the writer, while it is still cool, one would not have been surprised to see them commence to make himself in some great manufacturing center, for vast columns of steam rise about him in all directions. One of them threw up a column of water of over ten feet in diameter to a height of more than two hundred feet, the water falling to the soil in a circle of fifty feet that fairly made it shake. It is a land filled with marvels.

## A GOLD MINER'S STORY.

### How a Fortune Was Earned and Lost.

Some ten days ago the New York and Baltimore papers contained a story concerning the experiences of a Colorado gold miner, named A. L. Vernon, substantially as follows: Vernon was the owner of a gold mine near Denver, and for several years worked it alone. Three years ago he took a partner named Dickinson, and one year later he took another named Russell. These were all hard working men, and day by day they added to their piles of "dust." Vernon had pre-empted a homestead, married a wife, and was the father of two children. The mining partnership was very agreeable each having full confidence in the honesty of the other. About a month ago the aggregate accumulations of "dust" amounted to about $18,000, of which two-thirds belonged to Vernon, and the balance to the other two. They determined to make a trip east and sell their earnings, and left Denver for New York on Baltimore on the 14th instant. On reaching Baltimore the three put up at a hotel, and agreed that Russell should go to New York next day and ascertain what price could be obtained for the "dust," while the other two would remain in Baltimore a day and see what price they could get there. They all occupied the same room, and had the gold with them. In the morning Vernon woke up to find that his companions in bed—as the men whom he had befriended, who had shared his hardships, and in whom he reposed unlimited confidence—had robbed him of all his wealth during the night, and had fled. Police were put upon the search, both in Baltimore and New York, but to no avail. The robbers could nowhere be found. Being entirely penniless, Vernon concluded to return to his family at Denver and begin life anew. But he was without means, and had to apply to strangers for relief. He was ticketed from New York to Philadelphia, and at Philadelphia Mayor Fox secured him passage to this city, where he arrived yesterday. He was taken in charge by officers of the Fire Department, and the fact of his having been robbed is vouched for. Clerk Patterson, in the absence of Chief Engineer Shaffer, has also sent him on his way towards St. Louis.

## FEMALE FIENDS.

### These Horrible Petroleuses—Two Authentic Incidents.

A Paris correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* relates two instances concerning the female Communists. He says, however, that in such a way that he knows them to be authentic:

During the Commune an eminent surgeon in Paris, who had no sympathy with it, employed himself in aiding the wounded who were brought to his hospital. His chief assistant was a woman—a Communist—who, day and night, nursed the wounded, and was the most valuable assistant the surgeon had. When the Commune fell, the surgeon was arrested and marched to the Communist court-martial. He supposed he would be shot. As he approached the door of the tribunal, he met his late female assistant coming out of the room with the soldiers. "Why, Adele, I'm so glad to see you here!" The woman fixed a hard eye upon him, and said: "I don't know you, sir." The surgeon concluded that his case must indeed be hopeless, as this woman declined to acknowledge his acquaintance. Nevertheless he got a hearing, and then learned that at the moment when Adele said "I don't know you, sir," she was on her way to the Hotel de Ville. For fear of prejudicing his case, she had repressed any disposition to cry to him for aid—she had denied herself the last word of sympathy proffered on her way to death!

Here is another case: A Communist woman was seized in the act of shot. She was taken out and stationed against a wall, a large crowd of street people gathering around to witness the execution; this she took off, and seeing a woman in the crowd in rags, went up to her and said: "Take this, it is a pity to spoil good clothes." Then she returned to her place and was shot. Such was the last unselfish thought of a fiend—a devil—and such the horror of position. Verily, rank and royalty have their drawbacks.

BALL AND DINNER DRESSES.

The prediction that pouffs and paniers would be abandoned has already been realized. The two leading houses in Paris have discarded them, and the International costumes are the most graceful and novelty which cannot be appreciated by description, simply from the absence of the bunching and puffing of which we had become so weary. Trains are still long, but not so exaggerated as formerly, and are strictly confined to evening, or ceremonious dinners at the residence of the bride. Short dresses, but is considered vulgar to the very last degree when worn for a promenade.

The material most generally used up the street train is New York city. On their *Sundays out* they walk up the area steps, their skirts trailing at least half-a-yard behind, and sweep the dust while the nonchalance as the finest lady. "I shall have to wear dresses of walking length to clear the ground," remarked a lady who saw one of these exhibitions, and so she did; but it is a mystery how any one can walk in the streets of Paris, and in the street, and not be inspired by so strong a sentiment of disgust as to prevent them from ever following the example, no matter who was the wearer. Jacket bodies trimmed to simulate a waistcoat are almost universally worn, opening to display a plastron of silk or soft twilled finished Levantine. The body part does not always descend below the waist, but the trimming forms simulate a sort of square basque in front, and crossed ends at the back. Short coat sleeves not unfrequently accompany these models. The skirts are either made with an overskirt, or to simulate one, the "court" trains, so-called, being reserved for still more elaborate costumes of velvet and *faille*. An elegant dress of black velvet and amber *faille* was lately made for the Washington season, which was very striking. The train was of black velvet, and it was cut out in Jupe Louis Quinze plaited flounce of *faille*, which commenced at the sides, and surrounded the back of the skirt. The petticoat was of *faille*, and was trimmed with narrow ruches, cut on and bound with velvet. The basque was of velvet, and opened upon the edge, and cut short at the back, so as to display a wide band of *faille*. The front was trimmed as a waistcoat, with gold Venetian passementerie, and the sleeves of costly lace finished the sleeves, which were of *faille*, with vandyked band of velvet, and bow of the silk.

This dress is described minutely because it was one of those lovely confections for which France is ever made in this city, and because the combination of contrasting colors and different colors, which have not been seen since the days of crinoline, are this season brought into juxtaposition. Prune and lignite, for example, violet and English pink, tea rose and light green.

This has suggested to many a good way of utilizing old silk dresses, and has resulted in, some instances, have proved very successful.

A pale blue silk, for example, has been remodeled by trimming with deep flounces of white spotted muslin, edged with Valenciennes lace. The lower flounce, which extended the entire lengthens of the skirt, while others simulated an upper skirt and quite modernize all the waist and sleeves. Another of light rich green silk had the back part of the skirt entirely out and in place of the train, a deep flounce was put in, with a flounce, the heading to which was lined with green. The front of the skirt, which was green, was trimmed in the Italian manner with bands, alternating. The part of the skirt which was thus cut out, was made into a basque, with pagoda sleeves, and trimmed with black and green to match. In this way two really elegant costumes were created at less than the cost of one.

BALL DRESSES.

Are generally composed of silk, or of some very light material, like tulle or tarletan. Few white Swiss dresses are worn, and those only by young girls, but some very beautiful complete dresses of embroidered white French muslin are worn with silk stripes beneath. The newest toilettes, however, have overskirts of a rich material, and the underskirt is composed of the most beautiful trees, whose tops have been shaken, and are whose roots have been strengthened by the storms of ages. And it is to the preservation of the forest owners of such property value it merely in a pecuniary point of view, that they be before one be induced to sell to those who will appreciate it in its sylvan grandeur, with its rocks, its trees, its shrubbery, and its ferns.

But to form an accurate idea of the agricultural resources of this region, it is necessary to count the ronds on either side of the valley, especially the old Butler pike in its entire length. The farms along this road are bordered by and inclose the woodlands, as we have endeavored to describe, and will compare favorably in point and fertility, with any farms in any part of the country. J. A. H.

### The Loss at Peshtigo and Vicinity.

The loss at Peshtigo, as the result of the conflagration seems to be much greater than was generally supposed. The Marinette and Peshtigo *Eagle* estimates the losses of the Peshtigo Manufacturing Company at $150,000, upon which the company expects to realize about $120,000. In addition to its losses in the village, the outside losses by the company on pine lands and hard wood lands it puts at $200,000, making a grand total loss of $1,100,000.

It gives figures of individual losses in Peshtigo, amounting to some $250,000, and adds: "Allowing at least two hundred families of good means to have been entirely devastated by fire, one-half more or less improved, and estimating the losses in improvements, stock, and farm products to have been $1,000 to each forty acres of such lands, the loss amounting to $976,000. Valuing the timber on the entire tract at $500 per forty acres, and we have a loss of $976,000 more. The total grand total loss of property in Peshtigo village and vicinity of $2,883,000. Add losses at Menominee, at Menominee and the farms up Menominee river, and the Menominee pine, the total property in the village and vicinity and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two settlements, and mill property in the two sett

# Weekly Commercial.

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## THE NEW GERMAN REFORMATION.

Protestant hopes, raised very high by the decided stand of Dr. DOELLINGER and his friends against the Pope and his Jesuit supporters, have been depressed rather than confirmed by recent events. While there can be no reasonable doubt that the German movement in opposition is in some respects strong and formidable, it perhaps promises less for the future than it would seem to promise if it were less comprehensive and more strictly confined to the single object of resisting Ultramontanism or the acceptance of the leading act of the Council. By the publication of the acts of the Congress of old Catholics, which assembled in Munich in September, the taint of mortal heresy is perceived to inhere in the body which proclaims itself the champion of orthodoxy *par eminence*, and in spite of sympathy with its hostility to the dogma of infallibility, earnest Catholics who still cling to the old fundamental articles of the faith, can hardly help seeing a mere Protestant sect in the dissenters. In fact, as a movement against the aforesaid dogma it seems to have been spoiled by the interference and support of the German Government, especially of Prince BISMARCK, whose praiseworthy object has been to get rid at once of all the embarrassing difficulties which necessarily result from sacerdotal interposition in the affairs of a Protestant Government. Though the old Catholics, in their Munich Congress, declared that the pivot of their movement shall in future be opposition to the objectionable dogma, and that the articles of faith as developed by the Church up to the Council of Trent, shall not be called in question in their agitation, they avowed certain opinions and objects quite incompatible with sound Catholicity. Thus they declared the *chief end* of their efforts to be the foundation of a church constitution conformable to Christianity, the constitution which existed in the first Christian ages. Entering into details they declared that they wished the rights of the Pope restricted according to the Gospels and the harmony of the Fathers,—the recognition of an Ecumenical Council as authority in the last resort in the settlement of rules of faith and morals,—and finally the election of priests, bishops, councils, and even of the Pope himself by Christian people or by representatives chosen by them. And then the congress proceeded to make out a considerable list of abuses which call for immediate abolition, among these being the enforced celibacy of the clergy, the confessional in its present form, and the misuse of images and relics. They also demand the complete separation of church and state with the proper consequences of the separation, namely, civil marriages and common schools. Until the separation shall have been effected, they demand the rigorous execution of existing laws, to which bishops shall be deemed as amenable as any other citizens. Before dissolving, the Congress also resolved that its members should everywhere form local associations for the extension of the reform agitation and to render possible the performance of their ministerial functions by priests who have been excommunicated or inhibited for holding old Catholic views. The reader perceives that several of these measures go very deep, and imply nothing less than entire alienation from the Papal Church, as it is known to the world. It is even asserted, on good authority, that but for the influence of Dr. DOELLINGER, the utterances of the Congress would have been still more decidedly Protestant. And DOELLINGER's influence, though earnestly exerted, failed to prevent the Congress from asserting the principle of national churches independent of Rome, from declaring that the instruction of priests ought to be secularized, and to be controlled by laymen, and finally from expressing sympathy for other Christian confessions with a view to union with them. In a word, the old Catholic movement, as it is called in Germany, is really, to the extent of its impression, a new Reformation, with which it is impossible that the Church of Rome, in deference to her own safety, can keep any terms. It would also seem, as might reasonably be expected, that while the cultivated element of the Catholic population in Germany sympathize to a great extent with the cause of reform, the less cultivated multitude, many of whom might have favored more moderate measures, show indications of alarm, and of a purpose, in any case, to avoid the condemnation of heresy and schism. Hence, though the movement in question is undoubtedly important, its effect seems likely to be merely a weakening, and not the destruction of the Catholic Church in Germany. The agitation would appear to be the outcome of culture rather than a movement having its roots in the religious feelings and convictions of the people. Father HYACINTHE, who was present and made an eloquent address to the Congress at Munich, expressed this truth when he spoke of the movement as "German, having its cradle in the learned universities" of the country. He did not mean, however, nor is it true, that the men engaged in it are not religiously sincere and loyal to spiritual as well as scientific truth. And though German in origin and influence thus far, the movement indisputably commands the respect and sympathy of many educated Catholics, both priests and laymen, in other parts of Europe. Father HYACINTHE said that "in Italy, and even in Rome, among the secular clergy, in the monasteries and even under the arches of the Vatican, he had met with men who dare not yet speak aloud, but who are waiting for the hour when the day shall dawn for them." These are people within the Catholic Church who hold all the views proclaimed by HYACINTHE and by the Munich Congress. In France, also, it seems that even in the highest ranks of the clergy there are many weary of the Ultramontanism which at present rules the church, and who are impatiently waiting for a change. Though many of these may not be prepared to indorse the German movement, they doubtless derive some encouragement from it as one of the agencies by which, on the death of the present Pope if not before, the leaders of the church will be frightened into the renunciation of Jesuit guidance and into a return to the old paths.

## DISINTEGRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL.

Some weeks ago, the London *Globe* newspaper contained a long article, the object of which was to show the real insignificance of the International Society, and to warn the English and American press against the danger of involuntarily aiding the society by assuming its importance and making its acts a subject of comment and discussion. Upon the whole, the *Globe's* treatment of the subject did not seem very satisfactory; it certainly failed to neutralize the impression concerning the society's powers of mischief, left by its well known acts during the last two years. The truth is that the International gave evidence of a skill in organization and of a degree of decision and energy in action over widely extended areas, which might well be regarded with fear, and which were not likely to be either counteracted or weakened by the indifference or the politic silence of the newspapers. Fully organized and fairly at work, it was evidently destined to be the architect of its own fortunes, with its prosperity dependent on its management and the spirit of its members. The plan of its organization and its mode of operation were at least ingenious; some of its aims could not but command the sympathy of the working classes everywhere, and it was not easy to perceive that any outside influences could destroy the society or arrest its progress. In fact, the society at present seems likely to perish by its own acts much sooner than, a little while ago, its enemies ventured to hope. It has fairly lost its character by its avowed sympathy for and participation in the Paris Commune; a catastrophe which may in future be referred to as one of the happy results of that tragical farce. The International was at one time pretty strong in Italy, and the government was seriously alarmed by its rapid progress. Now, on the ground that the working classes are indifferent or hostile to the society, the same government refuses to take measures for its suppression. In England there is reason to believe that it was gaining ground fast a few months ago, and it is well known that its leaders look upon the social and industrial state existing there as affording the best possible antecedent condition for their method of effecting social and political revolution. And yet some of the most conspicuous leaders of the Society have withdrawn from it in disgust with its action in reference to the Commune of Paris. Two of these leaders were among the founders of the Association. And KARL BLIND, likely to be well informed on the subject, in a lately published letter, affirms that the organization instead of increasing is on the decline. He says that in France the activity of its members during the time of the Commune has almost led to the dissolution of the Society. Mistrust and hostility have driven its adherents asunder. In the course of the late trials and in other ways, it was proved that many of the prominent Internationals were men who received LOUIS NAPOLEON's pay in the time of the empire, for services rendered, and then as members of the Commune, did all they could for the distraction of the Republican party and for the destruction of political freedom. The effect has been disastrous to the harmony and prosperity of the Society. According to the same correspondent referred to above, the International leaders have no sympathy with Republicanism, or with general progress, and in England are wont to speak and think with more respect of the Tories than of their Liberal and Radical opponents. The statement may serve to explain recent reports concerning a coalition between the leaders of the workmen and certain Tory politicians in the interest of the laboring classes. Indeed, the entire object of the English Internationals would seem to be the improvement of their material condition, if possible, without disturbing established institutions, while on the continent the word International has now much the same meaning as the word Communist; a fact which implies the complete disorganization of the Society as it was understood to be a year ago.

THOUGH there is no prospect of a revolution in England, the political speculations of those Britons who would be pleased to see one, are not uninteresting and maybe worthy of mention. A foreign observer now resident in London, whose antecedents and ways of thinking naturally bring him into connection with radicals of all sorts, and whose intellectual distinction and uprightness of character secure him the respect of less turbulent politicians, has lately published a statement on the subject. It seems that many quiet observers believe that the extreme Tories and a good many of the so-called Ultra-Conservatives are seeking by moral means to force the Queen to abdicate, that the Prince of Wales may take her place. In the condition of her majesty's health, for some time, it is alleged that GLADSTONE and his radical allies are able to do what they please. Royal power in England being feeble, even when wielded by the most vigorous hands, is now a mere shadow. Then, among the shopkeepers of London there is great dissatisfaction about the entire cessation of court life with its shows and consequent demand for the articles in which they deal, while the republicans are declaring that, instead of the Prince of Wales, a President shall succeed the Queen on her decease. Hence to arrest growing disaffection and to bring about a crisis while the republicans are still unprepared to meet it, constitute the scheme ascribed to the Tories and ultra-conservatives. Newspaper articles in which the Queen's feebleness is dwelt upon, and pictorial caricatures designed to suggest and familiarize to the popular mind the idea of her abdication, are regarded as signs and agencies of the scheme, and Mr. DISRAELI's recent assertion of her majesty's "physical and moral unfitness for her royal duties" supposed to have been a bold move in furtherance of the same object. After all, however, the plan is likely to come to naught. The Queen in her feebleness is reaping the blessings of her virtuous life and reign; she has the hearts of the people, and the dissatisfaction referred to above, is almost confined to a single city and to a class who have as little political influence as any other. And to add strength to her position, her rival, the Prince of Wales, is what everybody knows—such a Prince as comparatively few long to see converted into a King.

THE labor problem is undergoing considerable discussion just now, the lecture of Miss DICKINSON on "Demagogues and Workingmen," and that of Secretary BOUTWELL on questions affecting our national prosperity, each being in a prominent degree aimed at strikes, and at such labor organizations as compel employers to hire labor at certain rates, or prohibit laborers from working except under certain arbitrary conditions and limitations; and both, moreover, being widely copied and commented upon by the press. Thus the subject is receiving general consideration and elucidation; the main tendency of the discussion being towards freedom of vocation and of individual control of the methods by which it is pursued. This has been the COMMERCIAL's plan from the first, and it is gratifying to see it so generally indorsed. We do not say that capital has discharged its whole duty to labor, that manufacturers are always unselfish, or that the workingmen have nothing of which justly to complain. But the fact still remains that that which prevents them from attaining a greater degree of prosperity, and elevating themselves to a higher social grade, arises far more from their own want of persistence, frugality and thrift than from any oppression on the part of employers. Too many of our mechanics and workingmen are mere growlers; restless, shiftless, discontented and indolent; their highest ambition apparently being a realization of the Communists's idea of plenty without labor, enjoyment without responsibility, and liberty without restraint. The masses of the people have suffered more injury from these uneasy agitators and disturbers of the labor market than from any other cause; and it is an encouraging sign that they are beginning to be estimated at their true value. Men who settle down steadily to work in the spirit of diligent thrift and trustworthiness do more to solve the question of the improvement of the condition of the working classes than all the trades unions and labor movements that were ever combined.

A CRISIS is evidently approaching in the affairs of England. The infirmities of the Queen have, it appears, been made the subject of Cabinet consultation. According to our cable telegrams, published in another column, the Privy Council have considered it necessary to ask Her Majesty's consent to the establishment of a regency with the Prince of Wales at its head, and that the proposition so offended her that she not only refused to entertain it for a moment, but also refused her consent to the marriage of her son, the Duke of Edinburgh, to a Russian Princess, and exhibited other evidences of extreme anger, not to say symptoms of mental alienation. The proposition subsequently made in the Cabinet that such documents as required the Royal signature should hereafter be presented to the Lord Chancellor in place of the Queen, looks as though the opinion which DISRAELI lately expressed concerning Her Majesty, is shared in by the members of her own Council. Should the Queen reconsider her refusal, and the regency be established as proposed, it will bring the English nation face to face with a grave peril. Let us hope that whatever changes may take place, the people may have wisdom to eschew the leadership of demagogues of whatever character or station. As between WALES on the one hand, and BRADLAUGH on the other, there is not much choice. It is to be hoped, however, that a way may be found to steer clear of both.

SOME months since, as will be remembered, a conference was held between members of the Committees on Streets and Surveys, representing the city, and the President and other officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, in regard to the construction of bridges and tunnels over and under the tracks of the company in the city limits, where the same are intersected by streets, and also in reference to securing safer and easier access to the depot by the erection of a local passenger station at the corner of Seventh avenue and Grant street. A basis of action was agreed upon, embodying these and other important propositions, and the City Solicitor, Mr. SLAGLE, was authorized to prepare an ordinance, pursuant to this basis, for the action of Councils. The ordinance was framed and forwarded to the officers of the company in Philadelphia, through their solicitor, JOHN H. HAMPTON, Esq. Some three weeks since it was returned, in an amended form, and is now in the hands of Dr. GROSS, the chairman of the sub-committee appointed by the two standing committees above named to confer with the officers on the subject, and report to the committees. There has been no meeting of the Committees on Streets and Surveys since the ordinance was returned, consequently there will be no report to Councils on Monday, as has been anticipated by some. It is understood that the proposition to establish a local passenger depot on Seventh avenue and Grant street is not embraced in the modified bill. The committees having charge of the matter will be called together at an early day, when the new draft of the ordinance will be considered. The subject is one of grave importance to both the citizens and the company, and it is desirable that a satisfactory conclusion be reached as speedily as possible. The several points involved will require the exercise of the soundest judgment and the wisest discretion; and both parties must expect to make concessions, and so shape their action that the interests of both, which are so largely identical, may be promoted without the imposition of unequal or unnecessary burdens on either.

THE whole country will sorrow to hear of the death of General ROBERT ANDERSON, of Fort Sumter heroic memory, which took place at Nice, France, last Thursday. He was one of the best Southern representatives of that splendid devotion to the Union of which General THOMAS was so conspicuous an example. He was not a great man, but he was a true man; and while abler and more brilliant minds than his were being so poisoned by the heresy of State allegiance that they forgot alike their honor and their oaths, he remained steadfast and loyal throughout, and for his country bared his sword against his kinsmen of his own section. The story of his defense of Sumter is known to every school boy in the country, and need not be recited here. For several years he had been in failing health, which he vainly tried to re-establish by residence and travel in the mild climes of Southern Europe. He had attained at his death the ripe age of sixty-five years. The promptitude with which he defended his country's flag under circumstances of the most trying character, endeared him while living to the hearts of the whole people, and now that he is dead will insure him an immortality of grateful remembrance.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest
With all their country's wishes blest."

WE are sorry to see that Secretary BOUTWELL, in his otherwise liberal and thoughtful speech in New York on topics affecting national prosperity, planted himself squarely on the record in favor of the continuance of the income tax till the last dollar of the public debt is paid. It is hardly to be wondered at that the declaration was received by thousands of people are rendered utterly destitute, all being swept away. More than one thousand have died. The living, to the number of at least three thousand, must be provided with everything for many months to come. Large supplies of food must be on all possible speed. Our people are determined that at least they shall not suffer cold or hunger the coming winter."

THE astounding frauds said to have been perpetrated upon the Government by ex-Congressman and Supervisor Stokes, of Tennessee, furnish another illustration of the beauties of private legislation and the power of lobby practice. Of course the Government will push the investigation in the most searching manner and to the farthest possible extent, and if it turns out that Stokes is the swindler and second-rate villain that the present state of case seems to show him to be, he will doubtless be punished according to the measure of his crime. But that is not all there is of this matter. There is great reason to fear that the dishonesty of Stokes and his accomplices was but a single illustration of the wholesale system of deception and fraud under which the Treasury of the nation is robbed. It is probable that a considerable proportion of the private acts that have passed the war from the two last Congress Military Committee have been of a similar character to the one whereby Stokes has been brought to grief, and that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been voted away in payment of pensions and services and bounties which had no existence save in the rascally imaginations of the thieves, and on the preambles of the resolutions which they concocted. The only remedy for this sort of rascality is to prohibit private legislation of a military character altogether. A bill which has the War Department remonstrated against the passage of these special acts, and declared that it possessed ample authority to compensate according to his own discretion all who had rendered any actual military service to his country; but in spite of these protests the reckless work of breaking down the distinctions between men of buckram and men of flesh and blood has been carried on, until it is probable that more money has been lost by it than millions. It is time to shut the door against these infamous conspiracies, and it is to be hoped that the proper characterizations and recommendations concerning the subject will be made in the President's forthcoming message to Congress.

IT is probable that the subject of compulsory education will be called up again in Congress at its ensuing session. The public mind is evidently fast becoming ripe for such a measure. The Philadelphia *North American* proposes a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, making it compulsory on all the States to provide ample means for the education of all classes of the people, and suggests that the Republican party adopt it as one of the "planks" on which it will go into the next Presidential campaign. The proposition is not the only merit, but one of the prime causes of the present disorganization of the Society as it was understood to be a year ago.

SECRETARY BOUTWELL, in his Boston lecture, Thursday evening last, declared that it was "a deplorable fact that one hundred and thirty or one hundred and forty steamships traversing the Ocean between the ports of Europe, Portland, Boston, New York and Baltimore, not one sails under the American flag," and so far as he knew, "there is not one building in the country destined to sail under the American flag, while there are thirty or forty building to enter into this trade under the English flag." The Secretary cannot be ignorant of the fact that there are now building in Philadelphia three or four large iron steamships to run from that port to European ports. Do we understand him to say that he is aware that they are destined to sail under the English flag? What has Philadelphia to say?

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"Another cheering sign was the treatment of the Alabama claims themselves. A disposition was shown to deal fairly with them. The British Government had freely accepted three great rules, which would be in the future accepted as international law between the United States and Great Britain, and they were precisely the rules which Great Britain had repudiated during the time when they were afraid, but because many of the public men had been thinking and had condemned the position taken before by England. Her neutrality laws were condemned, and new ones had been lately passed, which were very strict upon such points as the building of vessels by neutrals in her ports with the design of using them against another neutral."

In the same address, referring to General Butler's statement in his Philadelphia speech that the United States had forgotten to provide in the treaty that if any British subject should injure any in the South they should be precluded from compensation, he remarked:

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## American Commerce—How to Revive it—Views of Secretary Boutwell—His Thought-Plan.

In his Boston lecture on the public questions of the day the Secretary of the Treasury made a number of important suggestions with reference to the future policy of the country; his plan for the restoration of the maritime commerce of the United States being, perhaps, especially deserving of consideration. Referring to the fact that the day of wooden ships for ocean navigation is over, and that our ship-yards in Maine are not more silent than those upon the Thames and in the British provinces, he gave it as his opinion that if we had the skill and knowledge of the appliances and methods for iron ship-building possessed by the English and Scotch, the costs of constructing them in the United States would be reduced fully ten per cent. It is also shown by government tests that our iron is 40 per cent. better than the iron used by English shipbuilders. In view of these and other facts he thought it was the duty of Government to assist in bringing the knowledge of our artisans and ship builders up to the British standard; and a good way of accomplishing this would be for the Government to enter upon terms with the merchants and capitalists of the country to build a number of iron steamships of from two to three thousand tons, constructed in a manner to answer the purposes of commerce during times of peace, and to be converted into vessels of war in cases of emergency; the government contributing to their construction sufficiently to enable the capitalist or ship builder to produce them at as little cost as in Great Britain. In answer to a suggestion that if the duties were removed from all the materials which enter into the construction of vessels, an impetus would be given to the business of ship-building, the Secretary remarked that such a plan would upon investigation be found to be inadequate, and that even if this were done, unless some other measures were taken to reduce the cost and encourage builders, we should still be at such a disadvantage as compared with British builders that we could not put a ship upon the sea. Besides this, the tariff had developed the iron interests of the country to an extent which had made them leading interests, and the government could not abandon them to destruction. But it was still possible for the nation to give or return to shipbuilders an amount of money equal to the duties paid upon the iron if it be a foreign production, or, if American, which would have been paid upon it had it been foreign. Some such plan, he thought, would have to be adopted to re-establish the shipbuilding interests of the country. Secretary Boutwell, we observe, took substantially the same view in his speech in New York a day or two later.

### The Philadelphia Methodists Moving to Aid Chicago Brethren.

A meeting of the laymen and others of the denomination in Philadelphia was held a few days since at the Academy of Music, presided over by Governor Geary. Bishop Simpson introduced Rev. Dr. Fowler, of Chicago, who stated the pressing needs of the Methodists in the burned city. Their total net loss in churches by the fire was stated to be $298,000, and $200,000 was the lowest that would save them from the loss of their property. Among the resolutions adopted by the meeting was one expressing a determination to raise the sum of $40,000 within the bounds of the Philadelphia Conference for the aid of the churches of Chicago, and another recommending that a public collection be taken for the purpose on the first Sabbath of November. It was also resolved that a mass meeting of Methodists on Thursday evening of next week.

### The Suffering Wisconsin People.

Gov. Fairchild, in a letter to a gentleman of Buffalo, acknowledging a liberal contribution in remittance for the benefit of the sufferers by the late fire in Wisconsin, says: "No exaggerated accounts have been published. I have just returned from the burned district, which once personally knew thousands of people are rendered utterly destitute, all being swept away. More than one thousand have died. The living, to the number of at least three thousand, must be provided with everything for many months to come. Large supplies of food must be on hand on all possible speed. Our people are determined that at least they shall not suffer cold or hunger the coming winter."

IT appears that Russia has been terribly afflicted by fires during the past summer. "Conflagrations rage among us like an epidemic, a plague," the Moscow *Gazette* lately remarked. Within the last seven months several great towns, as Polozk, Slatoust and Rshew have been consumed, while others have suffered to a great extent. For a time fires were daily occurrences in Moscow; several railroads lost heavily by the burning of carriages, laden especially with cotton, and by the burning of stations. Villages beyond count have perished in the same way. This, however, seems to be the common fate of Russian villages, as we are told that they have to be all rebuilt once in five years. "In the Province of Wjatka there were five hundred and forty fires in the first two or three months of this year," says the *Gazette*.

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## Studies of Stage Sensationism.

OECHSLERIAL EXASPERATION—SOME HISTORY OF "THE SENSATIONAL" AND ITS EFFECTS—THE NEW "STEVENSONIAN" SCHOOL—ITS ORIGIN, CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCES.

How would an average man in actual life feel if every phase of emotion that pleased or troubled him was accompanied by spasms of coincident sound from a hired band of musicians?

Would the young and gifted leader of that haunting orchestra live to have his youthful ambitions realized, or the relatives of the elderly bass-viol avoid seeing his gray hairs descend in violence to the grave?

Music, when it suggests sentiment or thought of any kind, becomes the highest exponent of human feeling. We bow down to its power in the Olympian form of inspired opera, and understand how it affects us in the homely strains of a touching street ballad. But, given as dashes of chromatic bitters to courses of a wretched meal of sensation drama, it turns upon the mental stomach—so to speak—and produces nausea instead of appetite.

Now this is what the play of the period has become. A hash of delirious passion, served up with tenor violins and a bassoon; or a stream of inane nonsense, poured in its wandering channels by a first fiddle and a flute. Incidental blasts by the band are the bane of existence to the stage. Shakespeare didn't make *Iago* torture *Othello* to chords from the kettle drum, and Sheridan never thought of throwing dirt in the scene in "The School for Scandal" to the wild swoop of a Steinway Grand. Even Mr. Boucicault has used the instrumentalists sparingly in all works which he expects will live. But it seems as if the puny race of vaudlings lately brought forth had the feeling that could only be sustained in their struggle for galvanic life by pensive pinches from the piccolo or the full blown horrors of the ophecleide.

DISCENT OF SENSATION SPECIES.

Only a dramatic Darwin—an inverted dramatic Darwin—could trace and analyze in scientific symmetry the process of degeneracy through which the school of drama we call "sensational" has passed. The "sensational" has had its eras from the beginning; but it has not always been destitute of more or less of invigorating essence. Gleams of genius have irradiated its most repulsive features, and dishes of depraved horror, that would otherwise have sickened on the coarsest taste, have received some relish by virtue of their sauce of brains.

Shakespeare himself had sometimes to pander to the caprices of the groundlings, and Marlowe and Webster did it; but there was poetry in their very worst of pandering. Even the ravings of "The Duchess of Malfi" have thought in their invention and food for reflection in their exhibition. Mr. Peppy tells us of strange vagaries of which the Regency was guilty during the debauched epoch of the later Stuarts; traces of reproach at their occasional revival may be found in the *Spectator*; they cropped up at intervals through the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, to receive the reprobation of all but the utterly ignorant and unthinking; wild excesses have been tolerated on the French and English and American stage any time these twenty years, but no time of late years have there been wanting some characteristics that redeemed from utter and hopeless abomination the sins from which sensation is inseparable.

Only within the last four or five years has sensationism become so thoroughly debased as to bound beyond the limits of censure, and paralyze condemnation by sinking to a depth disgust itself can hardly reach.

WHAT COMES OF SUCH SENSATIONISM?

It is not the conservative critic, who looks on innovation as decay, who complains now. It is not the critic who affects a sensitive regard for the public morals. It is not the old many-gored mourns of palmy days. It is not the studious actor who regrets the loss of professional land marks. It is every one who has any regard whatever left for the stage as a means of refining and not debasing popular entertainments should be a means of recreation and not a crazing muddle of feverish absurdity; every one who recognizes the usefulness of the stage as an established institution and acknowledges its influence for evil when perverted and nightly adjunct of the most demoralizing dissipation.

When men go to see a piece which engages the attention, their minds are wholesomely diverted from the cares of business, and they get at once amusement and amusement. They will sit contented for three or four hours, have matter to talk about between the acts and are passively refreshed. But a frenzied farrago of bosh, that excites and bewilders while it disappoints and disgusts, drives them forth at every opening to seek relief and stimulation in intoxicating drinks. They drink to deaden an outraged activity of criticism; drink to strengthen themselves for seeing "the thing through;" drink to drive away from the shock of beholding some one thrown down a precipice, or to nerve themselves to witness the hanging of some one else; drink in disgust after seeing an actress thrown upon money away on such revolting trash; and, after drinking to brace themselves up to the end, drink from a sense of relief when it is over, and then keep on drinking. What should have been a pleasant source of mental and physical relaxation ends in their enervation and destruction. The cost in every way is too great to be incurred except at rare intervals, and going to the theater becomes an exceptional and expensive spree instead of a constant and economical means of enjoyment.

A NAME FOR THE NEW SCHOOL.

The very conservative critic, who repudiates sensationism altogether, and the fastidious critic, who carries the public morals tied up in a bundle under his arm, will probably say that there is no real difference between one kind of sensation and another; that sensation is sensation; that "Camille" and "Marble Hearts" are as bad as "Across the Continent," or "Neck and Neck," and that there is no what to choose between Boucicault or Broughan and Stevens or McCloskey. With profound respect for the opinions of the conservative and fastidious, the suggestion might occur that such a faculty as discrimination was not altogether valueless in life. There are things, and things; and there are very serious differences between them; and often, in what is virtually the same thing, there are many important distinctions of quality. Taking "Camille" and "Marble Hearts," for instance, they are positive works of dramatic art. Almost perfect in their power of pity and passion, in their coherency of thought and construction, in terseness and often elegance of dialogue, they can be admired by the man of culture of sentiment, while they are understood and enjoyed by all. Admitting, for the sake of argument, what has been urged against these plays on the score of moral obliquity and insidiousness of evil influence; admitting, FARLEY, that they are morbid, and to some tones of mind unhealthy; that their esthetic excellences are so great as to cover a multitude of sins merely ethical. It would be safe to go a step beyond these examples, in illustration of the meaning intended to be conveyed, and say that the vastly inferior class of drama may be apologized for —the pschycologic class, of which "The Corsican Brothers" is the best representative. These latter contain and evolve an idea, and, above all, an idea thoroughly logical and coherent; they do not instruct in a really good, or wholly harmless direction: but they *do* teach something and teach it comprehensibly; not leaving the brain of an audience in a sheer chaotic whirl of particles, approaching paralysis. Yet this is just what is done by this latest school of drama, for which no word of palliation or excuse can be found, and which is hereby named and shall henceforth be known as THE SCHOOL OF STRYCHNINE SENSATION.

CONCERNING THE SCHOOL OF SENSATIONISM.

It has previously been said that Messrs. Boucicault and Brougham must not be confounded with Messrs. Foster and McCloskey; special names being mentioned because in no general types of classes. And with no invidious intent whatever. Boucicault and Brougham have given so much of inestimable value to dramatic literature, for which they received no adequate return, that they might be forgiven almost any amount of reckless speculation in the sensational which promised large accessions of fortune. If they discovered chaff would sell for more than wheat, they are not to be blamed for putting the chaff on the market; yet, so rich were their storehouses, that they could not sift out the wheat altogether. Their worst stock always had some grains of nutriment in it. But the hucksters, otherwise typified, have sold nothing but dirt with their chaff. Not an intellectual kernel could be found in a ton of it, for they never had a single kernelgin all their granaries of rotten rubbish. Yet the profits of the strychninedchaff venders are enormous. The price of a box per dose for their wares would seem incredible if the fact were not known that emptiness and conceit are ever near akin and so often allied with grasping sordidness. For one of their skeletons of mechanical abomination, strung together with insane sportings of lingual garbage, they will demand and obtain more money than Boucicault and Brougham were paid for half a dozen of their splendid comedies. This result has accrued from the

DEMORALIZATION OF THE THEATRICAL PROFESSION;

and here is some inkling of how that demoralization came to pass. It began, of course, with a woman. An actress, not very young nor very beautiful in private life, made a fine appearance on the stage of the theater where she was a stock actress. Her entire abandonment of manner and absence of refinement imbued the masculine youth of the galleries with a wild enthusiasm. In a hapless moment for the world a keen, shrewd speculator in the vicissitudes of human nature, as seen in the theatrical speculum, beheld her and was struck with an idea. "This woman," retected he to himself, "sustains the house by keeping the upper tier full of the boys, and I'll bet she don't get more than twenty dollars a week. Why shouldn't she draw the boys all over the country and make the whole pile for herself—and me?" The idea was first broached, then conceived, then applied. Such a proposition had been seemingly unattainable goal of all her most sanguine dreams. She fell into it on the first asking. "But," thought her new manager, "we must start on a clear novelty. Some of your French Spies and that sort of thing. They're played out! We must have a new piece!" So a hack writer was secured to vamp four or five acts of dramatic gas, warranted to burn with many colored fires; and he was paid like a hack and was content. He little thought of the mine of wealth he had prospected for others to come and dig. Well, the experiment was a tremendous, overwhelming success, and thus were the floodgates opened. From that time out every well looking girl, with brass enough to gain the favors of the gods, commenced saving money or making equivalent negotiations so as to have a piece written expressly for her and then go flaming through the country as a so-called "star." Such "stars!" Every one of them a standing insult to the quiet men and women of real talent in the stock companies that have to perform with them! Naturally the young "nuttty" men followed the example of the "second chambermaids," and how many of them are now distracting the drama in all the populous cities of the land it would be hard to compute; but they have multiplied enough to drive out from such places all the actors who rely for the combinations of sound, sterling actors of modesty and experience, whom we once loved so well and can ill afford to lose. Not one more than any other cause to give color to denunciations of the stage, and it is they who dragged from obscurity and chiefly foster the scribbling incendiaries who form the poison-spreading School of Strychnine Sensationism.

## New Publications.

Whatever differences of opinion exist as to the soundness or value of the Rev. Charles Kingsley's views on practical subjects, all that he writes is readable. The secret of his readableness seems, in part at least, due to the fact that into his books he seldom fails to put a good deal of himself, and it becomes a revelation of a character which, if met with in common life, would be an interesting study.